Wellwishers join hands with government for supply of safe water to people

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Union Minister at the President Office U Thein Nyunt delivers an address at the ceremony to donate cash to the fund for supply of potable water to the regions where water is scarce in Sagaing, Magway and Mandalay Regions. —SNA

Monthly Weather Forecast for May, 2013

Bay of Bengal Condition

Nay Pyi Taw, 4 May—Southwest Monsoon Onset may advance in the Southern Myanmar Areas during 2nd Dekad of May and in the Deltiac Areas and Central Myanmar Areas during 3rd Dekad of May. A low pressure area may form over the Bay of Bengal and likely further intensify into depression. During the period, Southwest Monsoon intensity will be moderate to strong condition. Weather will partly cloudy to cloudy in the Andaman Sea and South Bay and partly cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Rainfall condition and Rainy Day

Rain conditions will be above normal rainfall of May in Taninthayi Region, Kachin and Mon States, below normal rainfall of May in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Regions, Chin and Kayah States and about normal rainfall of May in the remaining Regions and States.

Rainy Days are expected about (18-20) days in Taninthayi Region, Kachin and Mon States, (15-17) days in Upper Sagaing, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady Regions, Shan, Rakhine and Kayin States and (7-9) days in the remaining Regions and States.

Day Temperature

Day temperatures will be above average temperature of May in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Bago and Yangon Regions and about average temperatures of May in the remaining Regions and States.

Photo shows distribution of potable water by using bullock-cart in rural area. —SNA

Nay Pyi Taw, 4 May—A ceremony was held to donate cash to the fund for supply of potable water to the regions where water is scarce in Sagaing, Magway and Mandalay Regions, at Myanmar International Convention Centre, here, yesterday afternoon.

On the occasion, Union Minister at the President Office U Thein Nyunt said that the people in dry regions of Myanmar are facing social difficulties due to shortage of water in the summer. He continued that they spend the whole day just to get a barrel of water, at place four or five miles from their residences.

That is why he said that they miss the chance to do their regular works for basic needs, to take personal hygiene due to shortage of water and suffer from dysentery, diarrhea and eye complaints. The Union Minister said that in accord with the assignment of the Union Government, the personnel of Development Affairs Department made field trips and collected the list of water-shortage villages in 1999 and there were 8042 villages facing shortage of water in Sagaing, Magway and Mandalay regions and 15,183 villages in other regions and states. After the collection, they noted that it was necessary to supply safe water to 23,225 villages across the nation. Therefore, the department sank 1669 artesian wells and 1491 tube-wells in Sagaing Region, 900 artesian wells and 961 tube-wells in Magway Region and 3530 artesian wells and 2321 tube-wells in Mandalay Region, totaling 10880 artesian and tube-wells in three regions.

Moreover, he continued that a total of 11915 artesian wells and 1902 tube-wells could be sunk in other regions and states, so 18014 tube-wells, totaling 24697 have been sunk across the nation.

Sinking of artesian and tube-wells were funded through K 10407.62 million by the Union government, K 10485.20 million by Development Affairs Committee, K 2696.62 million and US$ 88734 by foreign donors, US$ 7.26 million and ¥ 1399.62 million, by cooperation with international community, amounting to K 23589.44 million, US$ 7.34 million and ¥ 1399.62 million.

A total of 2552 wellwishers have donated cash to the fund for water supply at 19 such ceremonies, he added.

Despite sinking wells in the water shortage villages to supply safe water to the people, it is necessary to sink one to three tube-wells in each village depending on growing number of population and houses, he noted. He thanked 37 wellwishers for their K 711,2659 million donations at the ceremony.

Union Minister at the President Office U Soe Than, in his address, said that due to increasing world’s population, the people are facing shortage of water, energy and food. The world people will enjoy prosperous life if they overcome these difficulties, he said. He noted that water is crucial than other things in some places. He added that seeking the water is a waste of the labour of the nation. At present, he said that the ministries concerned cooperate with region government for sinking wells so as to solve the problems of shortage of water. Later, the Union minister expressed thanks for wellwishers.

The Chief Ministers of Mandalay and Magway Regions reported on undertakings for supply of safe water to the people in the respective regions. (See page 9)
**LOCAL NEWS**

**Transparency for good democratic practice**

**Yangon, 4 May** — A group of people staged a demonstration on Bahan Street in Sasa, Yeiktha Ward of Bahan Township, here, at about 12:45 pm on 2 May.

It is learnt that the fire started at the fuse of a fluorescent lamp upstairs. A woman at the house was awakened by a foul smell of burning something and she noticed fumes coming out of the fuse of the lamp.

As fire crews rushed there in time and put out the fire, the fire could not spread to nearby houses. The fire engulfed only upstairs of the two-storey RC building, destroying belongings worth K 2.7 million.

"Two different scenes occurred in the park at the same time as some people who were there for relaxation were sitting and lying on the grass next to dancing water fountains while the demonstration was in progress. In shaping a disciplined-flourishing democracy, it is required to exhibit good democratic practices." — Kyemon

**Lightning kills Indaw man**

**Indaw, 4 May** — A man was struck by lightning and killed when strong winds hit Indaw Township of Katha District in Sagaing Region on 1 May. Before he was killed by lightning strike, U Soe Naing, 42, was listening to radio at his house in Lepyn village of Maukone village-tract in Indaw Township of Indaw Township.

"His driver said that the mad was carried out." — Kyemon

**Two killed, two others hurt in brake failure-related car crash in Lashio**

**Lashio, 4 May** — A crashinvolved a six-wheeled truck and three motorbikes occurred in Lashio of Shan State (North) at about 3.15 pm on 2 May.

A 12-wheeled truck carrying 17 tons of iron rods driven by Thein Shwe of Namhsam from Mandalay to Lashio plunged off the road and hit a concrete lamp post on the left side of the road at sector-5 of ward-1 on Lashio Union Highway that crosses downtown Lashio due to its faulty brakes. Then the truck swerved into the opposite lane and crashed into the rear part of a six-wheeled truck driven from Hsenwi road to the Union Highway and a motorbike driving behind the six-wheeled truck.

Due to excessive speed, it also hit two stationary motorbikes by the road and overturned in the compound of a house at the end of the road.

The crash claimed lives of Thein Shwe, 12-wheeled truck driver, and motorcyclist Thet Naing Oo, 31. Khin May Thin, 24, on board the 12-wheeled truck and Ni Ni Lwin, 29, motorbike rider, of Lashio had got serious injuries and they were taken to Lashio People’s Hospital for intensive care.

Aung Naing, 12-wheeled truck conductor, took an interview, saying that their truck was loaded with 17 tons of iron rods for a shop in Lashio. His driver said that the brakes were not working properly after their truck passed through the roundabout at the entrance to Lashio; he jumped out of the truck before the crash as his driver shouted at him to leave the car; and he felt very sorry for the fatal car accident. — Kyemon

**Woman run over, killed in Natmauk**

**Natmauk, 4 May** — A 53-year-old woman was run over and killed in front of Zaw Gyi fuel shop on Natmauk-Pyaywbe motorway in Natmauk at about 3.20 pm on 27 April. According to witnesses, Daw Hnin Tar of Wayon Kone village was run over by a six-wheeled truck driving out of the shop after filling fuel while she was sitting on a brick block in front of the shop. She was pronounced dead on the spot at the incident. Police members of Natmauk police stations rushed there and filed a lawsuit against truck driver Soe Tint of Chaung Nat village.

**Three family members die of mad dog bites in Myinmu Township**

**Myinmu Township, 4 May** — For 3367 local people of 796 households who are under water stress at Ohndawward-2, 3, 4 and 5 of Taungdwingyi Township in Magway Region, 10000 gallons of drinking water donated by wellwishers per day are being transported to them by Tatmadawmen of local battalions with the use of water bowser. On 29 April, each household were supplied with four buckets of water.

A local townselder said that ward dwellers expressed thanks for contribution of Tatmadawmen in supplying drinking water to them. — Kyemon

**Young man stabs girlfriend before killing himself with insecticide**

**Yangon, 4 May** — A young man stabbed his girlfriend and then committed suicide by taking insecticide at Shwe Paukkan Myothit in North Okkalapa Township on 29 April.

According to information that a young couple was picking a quarrel at a cold drink shop on Bagan street in Shwe Paukkan Myothit, officials concerned rushed there at about 4 pm on that day. In the incident, Aung Myint Tun, 27, of Ward-21 of Shwe Paukkan Myothit died of bites from the infected dog that was kept in their house.

A young man stabbed his girlfriend Su Su Win, 21, GTC final year student of University of Technology (Hmawby), of Shwe Paukkan Myothit with a knife, leaving her severe wounds to neck, left chest and both arms. She was taken to North Okkalapa Hospital and is being treated with intensive care there.

Then, Aung Myint Tun collapsed unconscious after taking two small bottles of insecticide he brought. He died while he was sent to North Okkalapa Hospital at about 5.50 pm.— Kyemon
Japanese journalist killed in Syria named as World Press Freedom Hero

Yamamoto who worked for The Japan Press, a Tokyo-based independent media group, and was an award-winning journalist known for her coverage of conflict zones such as Afghanistan and Iraq, died during clashes in Aleppo, northern Syria, in August 2012 at the age of 45.

The award was also given to Marie Colvin, a veteran correspondent for the London-based Sunday Times, who was killed in the besieged Syrian city of Homs in February 2012 aged 56. The announcement of the awards for Yamamoto and Colvin coincided with World Press Freedom Day on Friday. The two women journalists won the awards for their bravery and professionalism in covering the ongoing conflict in Syria and other conflicts, the IPI said. Yamamoto received the Vaughn-Uyeda Memorial Prize for contributions made by Japanese journalists in the field of international affairs in Fiscal 2003. She was the second Japanese national to be given the honour, after the late Shiro Hara, who received it posthumously in 2000. Hara was in a former city news editor and vice president of the Yomiuri Shimbun, a major Japanese newspaper, who dedicated his life to exposing social injustice. He died aged 81 in 1989. The World Press Freedom Hero award, instituted in 2000, is given to journalists who contribute to the fight for press freedom while facing danger. By 2012, 63 World Press Freedom Heroes had been named.

Kyodo News

Prosecutor in Bhutto assassination case shot dead

Zulfiqar was shot in his car after he left home and headed to a hearing in the case, a reminder of Pakistan’s instability just a week before general elections. “He was killed by unknown gunmen. Twelve bullets were fired,” said a police source.

Zulfiqar was also the prosecutor investigating the 2008 attacks on India’s commercial capital, Mumbai, in which 166 people were killed. India said militants based in Pakistan were behind the three-day rampage. The attack on Zulfiqar left glass and blood stains on the front seats of his car. Security expert Rana said Zulfiqar was probably a marked man because he had been prosecuting militants who were jailed in connection with Bhattu’s death, or other cases. Bhattu’s assassination is shrouded in mystery. She was killed in a gun and suicide bomb attack carried out by a 15-year-old boy after an election rally in the city of Rawalpindi, weeks after she returned to Pakistan from years in self-imposed exile.—Reuters

Obama blesses Mexico, security plan, eyes deeper business ties

The US president pledged support for Pena Nieto’s new policy of restricting contacts with the United States on drugs and drug-related violence to a single point, Mexico’s Ministry of the Interior. He acknowledged that the United States can play a role with its own domestic policies. “We look forward to continuing our good cooperation in any way,” he said. “I also reaffirmed our determination in the United States to meet our responsibilities to reduce the demand for illegal drugs and to combat the southbound flow of illegal guns and cash.”

Mexico’s new “single-door” policy would be an abrupt change from the wide latitude the US government enjoyed in working with Mexican officials across Mexico City, 4 May — US President Barack Obama gave his blessing on Thursday to a new security arrangement with Mexican leader Enrique Pena Nieto, in which Mexico will make reducing violence a priority over hunting drug cartel kingpins in the war against organized crime. The two presidents said they also want to step up trade and business ties that have been overshadowed by the battle against drug trafficking.

“It is obviously up to the Mexican people to determine their security structures and how it engages with other nations including the United States,” Obama said at a joint press conference with Pena Nieto.

At the start of a two-day visit to Mexico, Obama sought to draw attention to the emerging might of Latin America’s No. 2 economy, even as worries about containing drug-trafficking and related violence remained an inescapable subplot. The two leaders pledged to begin bolstering cabinet level meet- ings focused on boosting business between the two countries and to expand educational exchanges. The first high-level meeting is set for the fall. Obama said the US president pledged support for Pena Nieto’s new policy of restricting contacts with the United States on drugs and drug-related violence to a single point, Mexico’s Ministry of the Interior. He acknowledged that the United States can play a role with its own domestic policies. “We look forward to continuing our good cooperation in any way,” he said. “I also reaffirmed our determination in the United States to meet our responsibilities to reduce the demand for illegal drugs and to combat the southbound flow of illegal guns and cash.”

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Japan requests cap on Panama Canal transit fees

The US president said at a joint press conference with Pena Nieto that the request was consistent with a recent visit by the two leaders in Panama City, Panama, which was his first visit to a Latin American nation other than Mexico.

US government has said that killings linked to organized crime fell 14 percent in the first four months of Pena Nieto’s presidency, but 4,249 people still were killed during that period. More than 70,000 people are estimated to have been killed in drug violence in Mexico since 2007, and gang-style murders continue to provide lurid headlines. The increases focused on boosting business between the two countries and to expand educational changes. The first high-level meeting is set for the fall.

Bangladesh building collapse passes 500

Three-day rampage. The attack on Zulfiqar left glass and blood stains on the front seats of his car. Security expert Rana said Zulfiqar was probably a marked man because he had been prosecuting militants who were jailed in connection with Bhattu’s death, or other cases. Bhattu’s assassination is shrouded in mystery. She was killed in a gun and suicide bomb attack carried out by a 15-year-old boy after an election rally in the city of Rawalpindi, weeks after she returned to Pakistan from years in self-imposed exile.—Reuters

Obama said the first visit to Panama by a Japanese foreign minister in the talks was the visit to Panama by a Japanese foreign minister.

The talks with the top Panamanian officials, Kashida held talks with his Panamanian counterpart Fernando Nunez Fabrega and President Ricardo Martinelli in Panama on Thursday.

It is the first visit to Panama by a Japanese foreign minister. In the talks with the top Panamanian officials, Kashida conveyed the concerns of shipping companies about successive spikes in the transit fees and called for a dialogue with the shipping industry, according to a Japanese official. Nunez was quoted as telling Kashida that it is very important to listen to what users of the canal have to say, suggesting a forward-looking stance about communicating with the shipping industry.

Kishida also said Japan has started a study on loans to finance a rail project to help Cambodia in order to alleviate traffic jams in Panama City, the Japanese official said. He also urged Panama to place orders with Japanese businesses.

Martinelli reiterated the need for Japanese loans and said that if the rail system is built it will be a symbol of Japan’s infrastructure projects in Latin America. He also urged Panama to place orders with Japanese businesses.

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Panama, 4 May — Japan on Thursday requested that transit fees for the Panama Canal be capped as the waterway is of increasing importance to Japan as it imports natural gas from eastern and southern parts of the United States.

The request was communicated when Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida held talks with his Panamanian counterpart Fernando Nunez Fabrega and President Ricardo Martinelli in Panama on Thursday.

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Solar-powered plane takes off for flight across US

BlackBerry devices approved for use on Department of Defence

NEW YORK, 4 May—BlackBerry said Department of Defence (DoD) has approved its new line of devices powered by the revamped BlackBerry 10 operating system to be used on DoD networks. The approval allows all Department of Defence customers to use the BlackBerry Z10 and Q10 smartphones, and BlackBerry PlayBook tablets on DoD networks.

This comes after a Pentagon spokesperson said on Wednesday that the Pentagon is expected to clear Apple Inc, Samsung and BlackBerry mobile devices for use on Defence Department networks in the next few weeks.

The Pentagon unveiled a plan in February aimed at giving the military services a much broader range of choices among mobile devices. The department has 470,000 BlackBerry users, 41,000 Apple users and 8,700 people with Android devices.—Reuters

LG Electronics begins sales of world’s 1st curved OLED TV

SEOUL, 4 May—South Korea’s consumer electronics giant LG Electronics said Monday that it began sales of curved organic light-emitting diode (OLED) TV for the first time in the history of the industry.

LG began accepting pre-orders for its 55-inch Curved OLED TV in South Korea through more than 1,400 retail stores of the company, with deliveries to start next month, according to an e-mailed statement.

“The premium TV, priced at 15 million won (around 13,500 US dollars), would give LG a significant lead in the OLED segment that was expected to grow to 7 million units by 2016, the company said.”

“Our Curved OLED TV is not only the proof of LG’s unmatched leadership in next-generation displays but also a testament to LG’s commitment to bringing to market the most exciting TV technology available today,” said Havis Kwon, chief executive of LG’s home entertainment division.

After spending more than five years on research for the optimum curvature, LG designed the TV’s very first curved screen that is equidistant from the viewer’s eyes. The technology eliminated the problem of screen-edge visual distortion and loss of detail, the company said.

New species of meat-eating dinosaur found in China

WASHINGTON, 4 May—Biologists said on Friday they have discovered the fossil remains of a baby dinosaur in China that represents a new species of small theropod, or meat-eating dinosaur.

Named Aorun zhaoi after the Dragon King in the Chinese epic tale Journey to the West, the youngster lived more than 161 million years ago, in the earliest part of the Late Jurassic Period.

Its small, numerous teeth suggest that it would have eaten prey like lizards and small relatives of today’s mammals and crocodilians.

In a research paper published in the Journal of Systematic Paleontology, researchers explained that they were able to recover the skull, mandible and partial skeleton of the dinosaur in 2006, in a remote region of Xinjiang in China. It measured just one meter long and weighed about 3 pounds, or about 1.3 kilograms.

“All that was exposed on the surface was a bit of the leg,” said Professor James Clark at the George Washington University. “We were pleasantly surprised to find a skull buried in the rock too.”

Microscopic details of Aorun’s bones showed that the animal was less than a year old when it died on the banks of a stream, the researchers said.

This is the fifth new theropod discovered at the Wucaiwan locality by the team, co-led by Clark and Xu Xing of the Chinese Academy of Sciences.
**BUSINESS & HEALTH**

**New York, 4 May—**JPMorgan Chase & Co (JPM.N) CEO Jamie Dimon is scheduled to meet next week with bank examiners from the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency in a meeting the bank requested, the Wall Street Journal reported on Friday.

According to the Journal, the meeting provides a rare opportunity for more junior examiners to talk to Dimon and will be held in the style of a town hall meeting.

A spokesman for JPMorgan declined to comment.

The meeting comes as JPMorgan faces a host of regulatory woes including potential market manipulation charges and continuing scrutiny by federal investigators over the events leading up to its $6.5 billion trading loss last year.

Dimon, meanwhile, is dealing with calls from shareholders to relinquish his role as chairman of the bank’s board.

Analysts were speculating on Friday the regulator of US power markets was likely to pursue manipulation charges against JPMorgan after the New York Times described a 70-page report by the regulator, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, detailing how the bank transformed “money-losing power plants into powerful profit centers.”

The OCC is also expected to issue a cease-and-desist order against the bank for failing to conduct adequate due diligence on Bernard Madoff. According to a source familiar with the matter, the order will require JPMorgan to improve its anti-money laundering controls.—Reuters

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**Most women back over-the-counter birth control pill**

**New York, 4 May—**Close to two-thirds of women favour making contraceptive pills available over the counter, according to a new nationally-representative survey.

In addition, about 30 percent of women using either no birth control or a less effective method such as condoms — said they would likely take the Pill if it was sold without a prescription, researchers found.

“Of course it’s a hypothetical question, and it remains to be seen how this would play out in reality,” said Dr Daniel Grossman from the University of California, San Francisco and the nonprofit Ibis Reproductive Health, who led the new study.

But the findings “gives us some indication that making the Pill over the counter could help improve use of more effective contraception and help women use the method they’d like to use,” Grossman told Reuters Health.

It could also potentially reduce unplanned pregnancies, he noted.

There was mounting evidence that this is safe, this is effective and women really want it,” he said.

The results come amid news on Wednesday that the US Food and Drug Administration is appealing a court order directing the agency to make the “morning after” emergency contraceptive Plan B available over the counter to women of any age.

Last year, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists published a statement recommending that birth control pills be available over the counter.

For the new study, researchers surveyed just over 2,000 women aged 18 to 44 about their attitudes toward over-the-counter access to the Pill. None of those women was pregnant or trying to become pregnant, and all had been sexually active with men in the past year.

About 31 percent of participants said they were “strongly” or “somewhat” in favour of women being able to buy birth control pills without a prescription, according to findings published in the journal Contraception.

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**Berkshire Hathaway CEO Warren Buffett attends the Allen & Co Media Conference in Sun Valley, Idaho on 12 July, 2012.—Reuters**

**OASHA, 4 May—**Warren Buffett’s Berkshire Hathaway Inc on Friday said quarterly profit jumped 51 percent on a solid performance in insurance and by many of its other businesses, as well as gains from investments and derivatives.

The results topped expectations and were released after Berkshire shares closed at a record high.

Berkshire’s more than 80 businesses are benefitting from a strengthening economy, as illustrated by the coal subsidiary, the investor into railways, insurance companies, the retailing and consolidation businesses, and stepped-up demand for its Forest River recreational vehicles, to name just a few.

Net income increased to $4.89 billion, or $2.97, per Class A share, from $3.25 billion, or $1.96 per share, a year earlier.

Quarterly operating profit rose 42 percent to $3.78 billion, or $2.30 per share, from $2.67 billion, or $1.61 per share.

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**Supplement builds strength in fibromyalgia trial**

**New York, 4 May—**Creatine, a supplement favored by bodybuilders, modestly boosted muscle strength in patients with fibromyalgia, Brazilian researchers report.

Apart from helping with muscle weakness, although the treatment had little effect on other symptoms, patients who suffered from fibromyalgia reported a reduced level of pain.

Current treatments for fibromyalgia symptoms include three FDA-approved drugs — antidepressants (Effexor and Cymbalta), plus the nerve-pain medication Lyrica — along with anxiolytic drugs and sedatives. Experts noted, however, that the drugs are not very effective and come with many side effects.

Non-drug treatments for fibromyalgia include exercise, massage and meditation.

Previous research has found that brain and muscle tissues in fibromyalgia patients have reduced levels of creatine — a chemical critical to cells’ ability to generate energy - which might explain the weakness and neurological symptoms, Gualano and his colleagues noted in the journal Arthritis Care & Research.

One study found that creating supplements improved general fibromyalgia symptoms, but the research was not rigorously done, which made the results difficult to interpret.

So Gualano’s team conducted a 16-week double-blind, randomized, controlled trial, the gold standard for medical research, in which fibromyalgia patients daily consumed either creatine (15 patients) or placebo pills (13 patients).

Neither the trial staff nor the patients knew who was getting the supplement, or even what substance the supplement was supposed to be, until after the study period was complete.

At that point, the creatine-supplemented group showed modest strength improvements when tested on leg presses (10 percent improvement) and chest presses (8 percent improvement).

But, participants were also surveyed on an array of other symptoms, observing their pain levels, moods and sleep, and those in the supplement group didn’t report any changes in overall quality of life.

“It was a well-done study, but not very exciting,” said Dr Dan Goldenberg, rheumatology chief at Newton-Wellesley Hospital in Boston, who was not involved in the study.

He was not surprised considering fibromyalgia a disease of the nervous rather than muscle system, Goldenberg said.—Reuters

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**Urologists echo call for discussion before PSA test**

**New York, 4 May—**Urologists fell in line with other doctor groups on Friday in recommending careful consideration and discussion when it comes to screening for prostate cancer, rather than a gunning against PSA testing.

At its annual meeting in San Diego, California, the American Urological Association (AUA) recommended against screening average-risk men under age 55 or any man over 70 using prostate-specific antigen, or PSA, blood tests.

A year ago, the US Preventive Services Task Force, a government-backed panel, created controversy by recommending against prostate cancer screening for average-risk men of all ages.

Since then, other professional organizations have taken a skeptical but less decisive view toward PSA testing.

Last month, for example, the American College of Physicians said that for men in their 50s and 60s, doctors should base screening decisions on the patient’s risk for prostate cancer, his general health and preferences and on a discussion of screening’s potential benefits and harms.

Evidence suggests that screening with PSA tests is tied to a small reduction in deaths — about one per 1,000 men screened over a decade, the AUA reported.

But some results are also false-positives and spur unnecessary further testing and treatment, which can leave men impotent and incontinent.—Reuters
Israel has conducted airstrike in Syria

WASHINGTON, 4 May — Israel has conducted an air-strike in Syria, apparently targeting an Iranian military facility, an official said on Friday.
The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, declined to elaborate. CNN quoted two unnamed US officials as saying Israel most likely conducted the strike “in the Thursday-Friday time frame” and that Israel’s warplanes did not enter Syrian airspace.
CNN said the officials did not believe Israel had targeted a chemical weapons facility. CBS News cited US sources as saying Israel targeted a warehouse.

There was no official confirmation. Syrian UN ambassador Bashar Ja’afari told Reuters, “I’m not aware of any attack right now.” A White House spokeswoman referred questions on the CNN report to the Israeli government. The Pentagon declined comment.

In Jerusalem, an Israeli military spokesman said, “We do not comment on reports of this kind.” A spokesman for the Israeli embassy in Washington said, “We cannot comment on these reports, but what we can say is that Israel is determined to prevent the transfer of chemical weapons or other game-changing weaponry by the Syrian regime to terrorists, especially to Hezbollah.”

Hezbollah fought a 34-day war with Israel in 2006.
The CNN report said that during the time frame of the attack, the United States had collected information showing Israeli warplanes overflying Lebanon. In January this year, Israel bombed a convoy in Syria, apparently hitting weapons destined for Hezbollah, according to diplomats.

Syrian rebels and security sources in the region.

Reuters

Dozens dead as Assad’s forces storm coastal village

BEIRUT, 4 May — State forces and militias loyal to Syrian president Bashar al-Assad stormed the coastal village of Baida on Thursday, killing at least 50 people including women and children, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said.
The pro-opposition monitoring group said the final death toll was likely to exceed 100. Many of those killed appeared to have been executed by shooting or stabbing, it said, and other bodies were found burned.

Activist reports on the killings could not be independently verified as the Syrian government restricts access for independent media.

Hours earlier, rebels had attacked a busload of pro-Assad militiamen, known as shabiha, killing at least six and wounding 20. In response, government forces and shabiha surrounded Baida and near by Maqreh, near the city of Baniyas, and pummeled them with mortar fire before raiding Baida.

Assad’s forces have mounted a string of attacks reaching from the capital Damascus and the central city of Homs out to the Mediterranean coast, homeland of the Alawite minority sect to which Assad himself belongs.
The two-year uprising against four decades of Assad family rule has been led by Syria’s Sunni Muslim majority, and sectarian clashes and alleged massacres have become increasingly common in a conflict that has killed more than 70,000 people.

Reuters

Hamas rebuffs Arabs for softening Israeli-Palestinian peace plan

Gaza, 4 May — Islamist Hamas’s leader in the Gaza Strip on Friday rejected a revised Middle East peace initiative put forward by the Arab League, saying outsiders could not decide the fate of the Palestinians.

In meetings this week in Washington, Arab states appeared to soften their 2002 peace plan, acknowledging that Israelis and Palestinians may have to swap land in any eventual peace deal.

The United States and the Palestinian leadership in the West Bank praised the move. But speaking to hundreds of worshippers in a Gaza mosque, senior Hamas official Izzeddin Haniyeh said it was a concession that other Arabs were not authorized to make.

“The so-called new Arab initiative is rejected by our people, by our nation and no one can accept it,” said Haniyeh, prime minister of the Hamas government in the coastal enclave.

“The initiative contains numerous dangers to our people in the occupied land of 1967, 1948 and to our people in exile.”

Reuters

EU to propose punitive duties on Chinese solar panels

BRUSSELS, 4 May — The EU’s trade chief will recommend placing punitive import duties on billions of euros of solar panels from China, people close to the matter say, in a protectionist move that risks upsetting Beijing.

The case, the biggest the Commission has ever handled, is a delicate one for Brussels. Europe wants to protect its manufacturers such as Germany’s SolarWorld against cheap imports but also needs China, the EU’s second-largest trading partner, to help the bloc emerge from recession.

Trade Commissioner Karel De Gucht is expected to tell his fellow EU commissioners on Wednesday that Brussels should levy the tariffs to guard against Chinese production that quadrupled between 2009 and 2011 to more than the entire global demand.

EU producers say Chinese companies have captured more than 80 percent of the European market from almost zero a few years ago, prompting the European Commission to act against what it terms dumping. Europe accounted for about half of the global solar market last year, which was worth $77 billion, according to re- search firm IHS.

“De Gucht is ready to go ahead,” said one person close to the decision-making. “The Commission has a very solid case.”

The Commission started an investigation in September when it judged there were grounds to take up a complaint by a group of mainly German and Italian companies.

They accuse China of subsidizing its producers with easy credit to push output to more than 20 times the level of Chinese consumption. De Gucht now believes there is clear evidence of dumping on the EU market, and follow- ing Wednesday’s meeting in Brussels, will propose the measures at a gathering of trade specialists from all EU countries. They are expected to back them, diplomats say, allowing the provisional levies to come into force by 6 June, the deadline for a decision under EU rules.

However, the move to levy duties would still leave the door open for a negoti- ated solution with Beijing before December and avoid levies that could be imposed for up to five years.

Reuters

Japan, Turkey agree on civil nuclear cooperation

ANKARA, 4 May — Japan and Turkey reached a civil nuclear cooperation agreement on Friday that will enable Japanese companies to export atomic power generation technology to the fast-growing nation.
The agreement was reached during Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe’s trip to Turkey, the last leg of a weeklong trip that also took him to Russia, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. On Thursday, Japan signed a nuclear cooperation pact with the United Arab Emirates, the first such accord signed by Tokyo since the Fukushima nuclear crisis triggered by the devastating March 2011 earthquake and tsunami.

In Saudi Arabia, Abe agreed with Crown Prince Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud to commence working-level talks aimed at starting negotiations on a bilateral nuclear accord.

The Japanese leader is eager to promote exports of Japanese nuclear power technology despite the Fukushima disaster as a way to boost the country’s economic growth.

Kyodo News

Smoke rises after what activists said was shelling by forces loyal to Syria’s President Bashar al-Assad in Homs on 29 April, 2013. Picture taken on 29 April, 2013. — Reuters

This combined photo shows blooming peach blossoms in Pinggu District, on the outskirts of Beijing, capital of China, on 3 May, 2013. Pinggu is one of the biggest fruit producing areas of the capital and specializes in growing peaches of over 40 varieties. — Xinhua

The Beijing Model United Nations 2013 (BMUN) 2013, with the theme “a world that stands as one”, is opened at China Foreign Affairs University in Beijing, capital of China, on 3 May, 2013. More than 300 delegates from over 50 universities and high schools will participate in the three-day model UN conference. — Xinhua

Employees carry solar panels at a solar power plant in Aksu, Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region on 18 May, 2012. — Reuters

WORLD
MCDC focuses on development of Mandalay City, living standard of dwellers

Mandalay, 4 May—The Advisory Group and Mandalay City Development Committee held a coordination meeting at the hall of the MCDC on 30 April morning.

In his speech, Mandalay Region Minister for Development Affairs, Mandalay Mayor U Aung Moong said the MCDC had a purpose in similar with the advisory group for ensuring rapid development of Mandalay City, convenience of the dwellers meeting high living standard and fulfilling the requirements.

He added that better suggestions given by the advisory group would be implemented for the city.

Stimulant tablets seized in Bamauk

Bamauk, 4 May—SIP, Maung Zaw and party of Shwedaw Police Outpost, acting on tip off, searched suspected Po Zaw on the road to Yayaawk gold mine from Naungyaw gold mine in Bamauk Township of Katha District in Sagaing Region at 1 pm on 28 April.

The policemen seized 0.01 gram of what appeared to be heroin kept in the bottle, one red colour plastic and one red colour gas lighter from the bag of Po Zaw.

Action was taken against the drug possessor under the law.

Inter-village production roads emerge in Kyikha, Tiddim townships

Ambulance donated to social association in Thabang

Thabang, 4 May—Daw Thaung Nyunt (Myat Myitta Social Organization) donated one Super Custom ambulance to Myat Myitta Social Organization at Manse Monastery in Thabang on 24 April morning.

It was attended by the Township Administrator, the commander of Township Police Force, departmental personnel and members of social organizations.

The wellwisher handed over documents related to the ambulance worth K 7.2 million to Treasurer U Kyaw Lin of the association who returned a certificate of honour.

Car accident hurts seven passengers

Loikaw, 4 May—A car accident occurred in Lawja Village of Prahno Township in Loikaw District of Kayah State at 10.45 am on 29 April.

A vehicle driven by U Pharaoh, 32 of Monglon Ward in Loikaw running from Loikaw to Mawchi hit a heavy stone near Lawja Village due of out of engine control. In the incident, seven of 12 passengers from the vehicle were injured.

Among the injured passengers, Ma Christ Sein, Daw Pae Pay and Daw Stella were rushed to Loikaw People’s Hospital to receive intensive care.

Action will be taken over the car accident.

Over 3000 Buddha images consecrated at Shwedagon Pagoda

Yangon, 4 May—A ceremony to consecrate over 3000 Buddha images to be conveyed to Kayin State and Bago Region was held at Hitaw Chamber on the platform of Shwedagon Pagoda on 29 April morning.

Members of the Sangha consecrated Buddha images. Wellwisher U Myo Aung, chairman of Sein Sagain Co, and congregation received the Five Precepts from members of the Sangha and shared merits gained for donations.

The company has donated over 100,000 Buddha images to the remote areas including Kayin State and Bago Region for public obeisance from 14 regions and states.

The Buddha images are nine inches high, made of various dried flowers that had been offered to Shwedagon Pagoda.

The company sets an aim to donate 512,128 Buddha images for the public obeisance of the whole nation.

Those wishing to accept the Buddha images may dial 09-49666666 of the chairman of the company.

Newly-repaved asphalt road commissioned into service

Mon State U Ohn Myint, state ministers, departmental officials, members of the temple board of trustees and local people totalling about 200.

Member of the board of trustees U Hla Thein reported to the Chief Minister on construction of the repaved road. The Chief Minister and officials formally opened the road. Next, they opened the Hindu temple festival.

The asphalt road was constructed at a cost of K 40.2 million contributions by the people and members of the temple board of trustees.

Plan underway to set up natural disaster preparedness system

Pathin, 4 May—A coordination meeting on establishment of natural disaster preparedness system was held at the hall of Ayeyawady Region Government in Pathin of Ayeyawady Region on 25 April afternoon.

The meeting was attended by Ayeyawady Region Minister for Social Affairs Daw Khin Saw Mu.

Buddha images to the remote areas including Kayin State, 3000 Buddha images for the public obeisance of the whole nation.

Saplings planted in Shwebo before rainy season

Shwebo, 4 May—In commemoration of the May Day 2013, Shwebo District Arid Zone Greening Department, W.Computer Training Centre, Hnaung Thit Youth Group, Shwebo Greening Tree Planting Group, Youth Ahman Social Development Group and Saplings on that day.

They plan to cultivate more shade saplings fed with fertilizers.

Over 3000 Buddha images consecrated at Shwedagon Pagoda

Moarlmying, 4 May—A ceremony to inaugurate Sri Maha Çulamani Hindu temple festival and the repaved road took place in Kyauktalon Village of Madon Township in Mon State on 24 April.

Present on the occasion were Chief Minister of Mon State U Ohn Myint, state ministers, departmental officials, members of the temple board of trustees and local people from all around the region.

A wellwisher handed over documents related to the road to the Union Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry, the guidance of the Union Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry.
Sustainable tax culture

If each and every citizen fail to pay their fair share of income and corporate taxes, construction of schools, hospitals, roads and bridges and services such as the provision of water, supply of electricity, removal of garbage or protection of riverbank erosion that the government is responsible for would come to a halt.

The place of taxation in the nation-building endeavors of a certain country can be described as irreplaceable. For a country with an abundance of natural resources, wealth from god-given resources can be used to fund its development initiatives. But many resource-rich countries are not offered such kind of unique opportunity. Taxation serves as a strong tool for ensuring economic growth and national prosperity.

Building an effective and sustainable tax culture requires each and every citizen, whether individual or corporate, to bear the responsibility of paying their taxes. Sustainable tax culture can be brought about by the full support of loyal taxpayers.

If all citizens pay their fair share of taxes for the services they get and the government and its departments concerned join hand with the public to rid the country of the thieves and fraudsters who steal from the public purse and from the poor, a strong and sustainable tax culture can be built.

It’s required to heighten the public awareness of a sustainable tax culture that encourages citizens to embrace voluntary compliance and civic responsibility and guarantees them to question the government which failed in its responsibilities as a government to the people. When loyal taxpayers are confident that their contributions are being spent on urgent social works in a smarter way and equity and fairness, enforcement and incentive are central tenets which works in a smarter way and equity and fairness, contributions are being spent on urgent social works in a smarter way and equity and fairness, contributions are being spent on urgent social works in a smarter way and equity and fairness.

Tax evasion of opportunist taxpayers and public funds embezzlement loyal taxpayers and stick of punishments for defaulters and fraudsters should be enforced while incentives are to be offered and rewards for ensuring economic growth and national prosperity.

Opium seized from woman in Yamethin

YAMETHIN, 4 May—The local authorities searched a suspected woman who was walking near Yamethin Basic Education High School (Myoma) in the evening of 22 April and seized opium.

Chairman of the surveillance squad of Yamethin Township, SIP Hla Tun Naing, Cpl Ye Aung Win, Zaw Oo and members of the surveillance squad of Yamethin Township, SIP Chan Tun and member of Mandalay Anti-Drug Special Squad and local authorities, acting on tip-off, searched Ma Wan Ti Hlaw (a) Ma Tin Aye, 47, on Yanaungmyin Road of Watoe Ward.

The authorities seized suspected opium oil 1633 grams, 65.52 grams of opium latex from Ma Tin Aye.

3rd Khami National Day observed

PONNAGYUN, 4 May—The Khami National Day was observed in Sanalkeinchaung Village of Ponnagyun Township, Rakhine State, on 27 April morning.

On the occasion, Township Administrator U Nyi Nyi Aung and departmental officials offered meals to members of the Sangha and paid respects to 37 older persons in commemoration of the significant day.
Wellwishers join hands with government...

(from page 1)

At today’s ceremony, donation of entrepreneurs, companies and ministries amounted to K 712.7659 million, and Union Ministers U Thein Nyunt, U Soe Thane, Li-Gen Thet Naing Win, Region Chief Ministers U Ye Myint and U Phone Maw Shwe and Deputy Ministers U Thant Shin and U Pike Htwe accepted the cash donations.

At the ceremony, United Amara Bank Ltd donated K 150 million, Shwedagon Group of Companies K 100 million, U Ko Ko Gyi-Daw Moe Moe, Managing Director of Capital Diamond Star Co Ltd K 100 million, Aung Moe Kyaw of Maha Meik Ltd K 100 million, U Aung of Capital Diamond Star Co Ltd, U Aung Soe Tha of Myanmar Combis Co Ltd K 5 million each, U Kyaw Lin of LOP Co Ltd, U Maung Maung and family (Chairman) Chu International Co Ltd, U Thin Lin Aung-Ma Htet Aung, and U Min Lwin Aung of Theinga Yadana Co K 1 million each, U Kyaw Naing Soe-Daw Thin Thin Htet of Princess Amara Car Rental Service K 500,000, Ministry of Home Affairs K 12.5 million, Ministry of Industry K 10 million, Ministry of Construction K 4 million, Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation K 2.6659 million, Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry K 2 million, Ministries of Border Affairs, President Office (3), Finance and Revenue and Rail Transportation, Directorate of Investment and Companies Administration, Ministry of Commerce and Ministry of Electric Power K 300,000 each and Ministry of Communications and Information Technology K 500,000.

After the ceremony, U Win Lwin of Kyaw Thar Co Ltd explained the purpose of cash donation to supply safe water to the people. After that, interviews were made with officials and wellwishers.

U Thein Nyunt of Mandalay Region At present, we all are participating in the water supply tasks. We heartily welcome the donations. Now, it needs assistance for the water supply. So, the Union government is placing emphasis on supply of safe water in cooperation with the people. Thanks to wellwishers, the tasks will be accomplished ahead of the schedules. So, we can attend to the needs as quickly as possible.

In the previous year, we spent the fund on supply of water due to drought. Now, we are spending the fund on the similar tasks. With regard to next year’s task, we will focus on supply of water, spending K 4.2 billion—K 2.6 billion on construction of dams and reservoirs and K 1.6 billion on sinking tube-wells. New, the projects are ongoing. But, it is yet to be sufficient. Plans are underway to sink more tube-wells in the future.

U Kyaw Thu Aung, Deputy Director of Department of Progress of Rural Region The department is undertaking rural water supply in 14 regions and states, six self-administered zones, totaling 20. In the 2012-2013 fiscal year, the department implemented over 600 projects. In 2012-2013 FY, the department joined hands with HCA in water supply tasks, sinking 20 tube-wells. We had held the cash donation ceremonies 20 times. This year, the people suffered from climate change and shortage of water across the nation. The department joined hands with the international organizations for water supply tasks. We invited wellwishers for waterworks. The 21st cash donation of wellwishers was purposed for seeking contributions of wellwishers so as to supply safe water to the needy places.

Wellwishers may donate cash to the funds for water supply by dialing 067-409211 of Director-General U Soe Ko Ko of Department of Progress of Rural Region, 067-409357 of Deputy Director-General U Myint Oo and 067-409407 of Water Supply and Sanitation Branch of the department. The wellwishers may express the date for donation, type of donation and amount of money. We heartily welcome the wellwishers.

U Tun Yin, Director of Capital Diamond Star Co Ltd As we are residing in the water-sufficient places, we make donations as much as possible for the people from water shortage regions. Now, we join the activity of cash donation ceremony organized by ministries concerned. We have heartily felt happy for donations to supply safe water in our bit to the water shortage areas.

In the future, we will make more donations as much as possible to rural regions, less developed areas, water shortage places and natural disaster-hit areas.

Daw Yi Mon Soe Win, Director of SSS Automobile Assembling Industry Some people are suffering from shortage of water due to climate change. We are pleasurable for donations to the supply of water to those people. We will donate more cash and kind at the similar programmes. Especially, we felt happy for the donation ceremony to supply safe water to the regions with shortage of water. —MNA
Honda car fire in Bago Township

According to the news that a car was on fire on the Yangon-Bago road near Letpanwin Village in Bago Township yesterday, Head of Intagaw Police Station IP Kyaw Tin Oo and members rushed to the scene. The UD Nissan car loaded with fiber sheets and steel frames slipped roadside. The fire was triggered by electric shocks from the car’s head. The driver ran away from the accident.

Illegal beef seized in Ngathainggyoung Township

Ngathainggyoung, 4 May—Pieces of dried beef were seized in Ngathainggyoung Sub-township of Yekyi Township on 30 April. Police on patrol seized illegal dried beef from a powered trailer with three persons on it on Paya Street in Shaehasung Ward. A total of 189 viss of dried beef were seized from the powered trailer and actions are being taken against the offenders.

Rice offered to Sangha to mark Fire Brigade Day in Chanayethazan Township

Mandalay, 4 May—A communal meal-offering ceremony was held to mark the 67th Anniversary Myanmar Fire Brigade Day at Eindawya fire service station in Chanayethazan Township in Mandalay today. Firefighters from five townships in Mandalay gathered to offer morning meal and offertories to members of the Sangha and shared merits gained. Firefighters together with local residents offered rice to a total of 130 monks.

Strong winds hit Kyaukme

Kyaukme, 4 May—Strong winds and dissident rain with hailstones hit some regions in Kyaukme yesterday. The disaster destroyed houses and lamp posts and fell trees and caused power cut. Likewise, the villages in Kyaukme township were hit by strong winds on 2 May, destroying homes, schools and leaving some people homeless. Youth volunteers donated 100 CI sheets, clothes and foodstuff to the victims. Social organizations, political parties and authorities concerned are preparing to provide relief aids to them.

Concrete blocks put to ease traffic congestion

Yangon, 4 May—The increase in number of car ownership has resulted in serious traffic congestions on urban and main streets in Yangon. Authorities concerned are making constant efforts for reducing traffic jams in commercial hub Yangon. Roadside vendors on 25th Street and 26th Street on Maha Bandoola Street are systematically selling goods on platform. Thanks to it, there is no traffic jam there. Drivers thank officials concerned for it.

No traffic jam on Maha Bandoola Street

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High yield paddy harvested in Nattalin Township

Nattalin, 4 May—A ceremony to harvest summer high yield Palethwe and Yadanatoe paddy strains was held on the model plot of farmer U Myo Nyunt Lwin in Tagundaing Village of Nattalin Township, Thayawady District, Bago Region, yesterday morning. The model plot produced 160 baskets of Palethwe paddy in dry status and 110 baskets of Yadanatoe paddy. The harvesting ceremony was attended by Township Administrator U Zaw Lwin, Head of Township Agriculture Department U Myint Shwe, departmental personnel and local people.

Tractor skill demonstrated

Katha, 4 May—A tractor skill was demonstrated by members of Sugarcane Producers Association (Katha Zone) at the office of SPA headquartered in the residence of U Pho Thuong in Indrant Village in Katha Township of Katha District on 1 May. It was attended by district/township department heads, farmers and enthusiasts. A departmental official extended greetings and a marketing manager from Mahindara agricultural mechanized farming equipment (tractor) of Bandoola Co., Ltd., explained quality of tractors and accessories. The operators demonstrated tractor skill to sugarcane farmers and officials from that Co., responded to the questions raised by the farmers.

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ASEAN-plus-3 boost economic ties amid discord in E Asia

Greater Noida, (India), 4 May — The Association of Southeast Asian Nations plus Japan, China and South Korea agreed in India on Friday to enhance the region’s financial co-operation, despite the absence of the finance ministers of China and South Korea. At the so-called ASEAN-plus-three meeting involving East Asia’s three largest economies, the countries agreed to elevate the region’s first economic and financial surveillance body to the status of an international organization, with the aim of strengthening the regional financial safety net.

With the decision at the ASEAN-plus-three meeting, the ASEAN-3 Macroeconomic Research Office, or AMRO, will be raised to the same level as financial institutions such as the Asian Development Bank and the International Monetary Fund. AMRO was established in April 2011 to oversee the operation of the Chiang Mai Initiative Multilateralisation, a multi-lateral currency swap agreement launched in 2010. Amid heightened political tensions among the three East Asian nations, the Chinese and South Korean finance ministers as well as the governor of the People’s Bank of China skipped the meeting, with vice finance ministers attending instead, according to a Chinese government official.

The Chinese vice finance minister, who attended the meeting instead, said at a press conference afterward that the absence of China’s finance minister and central bank chief had nothing to do with diplomatic issues.

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe will travel to Japan on 27 May for a three-day official visit, Indian government sources said on Friday. Speaking to Kyodo News in New Delhi, the sources said that Singh would be accompanied by a high-level delegation including National Security Advisor Shiv Shankar Menon and Foreign Secretary Ranjan Mathai. Among the issues that are likely to be discussed during Singh’s meeting with the Japanese leadership would be civil nuclear energy, defence, countering global terror, national disaster management, and infrastructure development. “All issues of bilateral concerns would be taken up during the meeting. The agenda is being drafted and will be formally announced soon,” one of the sources said.

Singh’s scheduled visit to Japan in November last year was postponed in the wake of “political developments” in the archipelago nation. During the visit, the Indian premiers will also likely discuss with the Japanese leadership the possibilities and probabili- ties of introducing Japan’s high-speed railway system to India.

Notably, India and Japan are fast emerging as allies in terms of countering China’s growing assertiveness in Asia. Both India and Japan have border disputes pending with China, and accuse Beijing of intruding into their respective territories. On Thursday the two countries held a crucial meeting — the forth bilateral dialogue — with the United States in Washington.

Japan marks 66th anniversary of Constitution enforcement as Abe eyes change

Tokyo, 4 May — Japan on Friday marked the 66th anniversary of its postwar Constitution coming into force, at a time when Prime Minister Shinzo Abe is determined to amend the country’s supreme law. Abe, whose Cabinet has been riding high in opinion polls since its launch last December, is keen to rewrite the current war-renouncing Constitution and create stronger defence forces, much to the dismay of neighbouring China and South Korea that suffered Japan’s wartime aggression.

The hawkish Prime Minister views the current Constitution as having been drafted under the strong influence of the United States during the postwar occupa- tion of Japan. The Constitution has not been revised since it came into force in 1947. Abe, however, needs to clear a set of challenges, including gaining greater public support for revising Article 96 to make it easier to rewrite the Constitution, before eventually reviving the war-renouncing Article 9.

A Kyodo News survey late last month showed that 63.3 percent opposed Abe’s push to ease the process for amending the Constitu- tion, while 42.7 percent expressed support.

Abe is seeking to make revising Article 96 a key issue during the House of Councillors election in the summer. Article 96 states that any initiative to revise the Constitution must be backed by at least two-thirds of the members in each house of parliament, before an “affirmative vote of a major- ity of all votes cast” in a referendum.—Kyodo News

Indian’s Singh to visit Japan in late May

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Kyodo News

Gridlocked Jakarta launches subway project, 20 years late

Jakarta, 4 May — Jakarta’s popular new go- vernor, who threatens to shake up Indonesian crony poli- tics, has launched the first mass transit railway project to help end the gridlock that brings the capital to a near halt during rush hour. It is also the first major project of Joko Widodo, popu- larly known as Jokowi, who swept to office seven months ago with the prom- ise to sweep away the cor- ruption and inefficiency that has long been the hallmark of Indonesian politics and the way the world’s 17th-largest city has been run. The project, announced late on Thursday and which has been delayed for over two decades, would mark a rare bright spot in Indonesia’s growing infrastructure bottleneck which threatens to throttle what have been record levels of investment in Southeast Asia’s biggest economy.

“Jokowi has no choice but to build the MRT (Mass Rapid Transit railway) to satisfy the emerging mid- dle class,” said Marco Ku- sumawijaya, head of Rajak, a Jakarta-based urban plan- ning think-tank. “But this will not solve the traffic problems of the city in the long run because the back- log of demand for public transport here is so huge.”

Joko Widodo, 48, a former furniture salesman who was recently elected mayor of Jakarta takes part in a Batik carnival in Solo, Central Java on 28 June, 2009. Reuters

Malaysia’s general election remains a neck-and-neck race

Kuala Lumpur, 4 May — Malaysian Prime Minis- ter Najib Abdul Razak ex- pressed confidence on Fri- day that his ruling coalition will be returned to power in Sunday’s general elec- tion, while the opposition is equally confident of victory but concerned about the coalition resorting to dirty tricks to stay in power.

“I can report to you that the people still accept Barisan. Come on 5 May, Barisan will return to power in Putrajaya,” Najib, 59, said in a campaign rally near Putrajaya, the federal administrative capital. Bar- risan is the Malay name for the 13-party National Front coalition that has ruled the country since independence in 1957. After two weeks of campaigning, the stress is beginning to show on Najib, who spoke with a hoarse voice. But as this time, Barisan is face- ing a strong challenge from the opposition led by the charismatic Anwar Ibrahim, 65.

A survey by independent pollster Merdeka Centre said both are “neck and neck in the race to the finish- ing line.” Anwar has been widely credited with pulling together the ideologically disparate opposition into a united three-party alliance called Pakatan Rakyat, or the People’s Alliance. The three parties are his own multi-racial People’s Justice Party, the multi-ethnicrayal People’s Justice Party, the multi-

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New Light of Myanmar
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**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**

**MV ASIATIC DAWN VOY NO (1318)**

Consignees of cargo carried on **MV ASIATIC DAWN VOY NO (1318)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5.5.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY AGENT FOR: MS CHINA SHIPPING (MALAYSIA) AGENCY SDN BHD**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

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**Wind farms to lure back German lobsters decimated by WW2**

**BERLIN**, 4 May—New wind farms off Germany’s North Sea coast will provide an ideal habitat that could help restore the lobster population near Heligoland after British bombing during and after World War II drove them away.

Biologists at the Alfred-Wegener Institute for Polar and Marine Research are breeding 3,000 lobsters to be released next year into the Borkum Riffgat offshore wind farm near the island 70 km off the German-Dutch coast.

The 1.5 square km island had a thriving fishing industry before it became a Nazi fortress in the war, pounded by Allied bombs, and then later used for target practice. It is now a tourist resort.

Billions of euros of investment in wind turbines as part of Germany’s ambitious transition to renewable energy has given the scheme impetus. Lobsters, whose local population is 90 percent smaller than it was 70 years ago, need a firm seabed to thrive.

“The new wind parks mean lobsters may settle in a new habitat, because the stony foundations offer a favorable environment,” project leader Heinz-Dieter Franke said.

The 700,000 euro ($923,500) scheme is funded by compensation paid to the state of Lower Saxony by utility EWE for any potential ecological damage caused by the construction of its wind park. The money will fund breeding, reintroduction and monitoring of the lobsters for roughly two years.

“With Germany’s shift to renewables, we could have 5,000 wind farms by 2030, so if it works, this kind of project could have a huge effect on the lobster population,” Franke said.

He estimated that wind farms could help increase the lobster population to as many as 300,000 lobsters in the area around Heligoland in the long run from 50,000 to 100,000 now.

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**Guantanamo camp burns through $900,000 a year per inmate**

**WASHINGTON**, 4 May—It’s been dubbed the most expensive prison on Earth and President Barack Obama cited the cost this week as one of many reasons to shut down the detention center at Guantanamo Bay, which burns through some $900,000 per prisoner annually.

The Pentagon estimates it spends about $150 million each year to operate the prison and military court system at the US Naval Base in Cuba, which was set up 11 years ago to house foreign terrorism suspects. With 166 inmates currently in custody, that amounts to an annual cost of $903,614 per prisoner.

By comparison, the maximum security prisons in the United States spend about $60,000 to $70,000 at most to house their inmates, analysts say. And the average cost across all federal prisons is about $30,000, they say. The high cost was just one reason Obama cited when he returned this week to an unfilled promise to close the prison and said he would try again.

Obama also said that the prison, set up under his Republican predecessor George W Bush and long the target of criticism by rights groups and foreign governments, is a stain on the reputation of the United States. “It’s extremely inefficient,” said Ken Gude, chief of staff and vice president at the liberal Center for American Progress think tank, who has followed developments at Guantanamo Bay since 2005.”

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**Secular Turks see red over airline’s lipstick ban**

**ISTANBUL**, 4 May—Turkey’s national airline has barred female flight attendants from wearing red lipstick and nail polish, striking a nerve among secular Turks worried the country is becoming more Islamic.

Turkish Airlines, Europe’s fourth-biggest carrier, said the ban was aimed at keeping crews “artless and well-groomed” with “makeup in pastel tones”, as a natural look improved communication with passengers.

“As a consequence of our current cabin uniforms not including red, dark pink, or cetera, the use of lipstick and nail polish in these colours by our cabin crew impairs visual integrity,” the statement said.

Turkish Airlines declined a request for further comment. The guideline follows other restrictions on employees’ appearance and on serving alcohol.

Critics say they reflect the influence of the government’s conservative religious values at the fast-growing state-run airline, one of Turkey’s most recognized brands.

“This new guideline is totally down to Turkish Airlines management’s desire to shape the company to fit its own political and ideological stance,” Atilay Aycin, president of the airline’s Hava-I Labor union, told Reuters.

“No one can deny that Turkey has become a more conservative, religious country,” Turkey is 99 percent Muslim but the NATO state and European Union candidate has a secular constitution. Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan’s ruling AK Party, which traces its roots to a banned Islamic party, has relaxed the state’s control over the expression of religion, such as once-stRICT limits imposed on wearing the Islamic-style headscarf.

Such restrictions were aimed at reining in Islamist and improving women’s rights, but effectively prevented many devout women from studying at university or taking government jobs. Turkish Airlines scrapped its own ban on the headscarf more than a year ago, and covered women now work at check-in counters and at other positions in the company, Aycin said. Other Turkish carriers also have guidelines on the appearance of cabin personnel.

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**EC says Italy likely to exit deficit procedure**

**ROME**, 4 May —The European Commission (EC) on Friday forecast Italy’s budget deficit would be under the 3 percent limit set by the European Union, which facilitates the closure of a deficit-infraction procedure, though there were no signals of recovery. According to EC estimates, the Italian budget deficit will be 2.9 percent in 2013 and will continue to fall to 2.4 percent next year.

Economy Minister Fabrizio Saccomanni is expected to report to the EC that his government would be linking Italy to be cleared at a summit scheduled in the end of June. However, Italian GDP, which is experiencing its longest recession in 20 years, was expected to drop by 1.3 percent this year and 0.7 percent in 2014. National debt is projected to exceed the 130-percent threshold to reach 131.4 percent this year and 132.2 percent in 2014, according to the EC estimates.

Unemployment, especially among the youth, was also forecast to rise from current levels of 11.8 percent this year and 12.2 percent in 2014. According to a recent study, suicides that can be linked to the economic crisis and unemployment in Italy have increased by 20 to 30 percent in the last four years. Earlier this week, newly-appointed Prime Minister Enrico Letta travelled to Berlin, Paris and Brussels to reassure European partners that his government would pursue economic recovery in the framework of budget consolidation.

His unprecedented left-right coalition, featuring politicians and institutional figures backing from across the political spectrum, will face the tough challenge of how to reduce debt without raising taxes and how to fund the ambitious reforms it has outlined. — Reuters
**Victoria Beckham plans UK store as juggles family and fashion**

London, 4 May—British fashion designer and former Spice Girl Victoria Beckham said life as a working mother is a struggle but she relishes the challenge and plans to expand her empire with a retail store in London.

As mother to three boys — Brooklyn, Romeo and Cruz — and to 21-month-old daughter Harper, Beckham said balancing her family life and career was a constant juggle.

"The children are my priority and always have been and always will be so it’s a little bit of a juggling act," she told the Vogue Festival at London’s Royal Festival Hall on Sunday.

"But it’s a little bit of a juggling act, I love my kids more than anything, but I love doing what I do as well and it’s just getting the balance right which is not easy, at all.

With her second son Romeo appearing in the recent Beckham campaign and football star husband David Beckham fronting an underwear campaign for HM, 39-year-old Beckham is busy.

But she said she was keen to build further on her success in fashion with plans to open her first retail store in London.

"This is where I want to have my first store ... I’d like to do something that is really new, really fresh. Something a little bit conceptual but not too much," she said without giving any more details.

Beckham, who made her name as pop singer Posh Spice in the 1990s, told the festival last year that she enjoyed being a mum, I love my kids more than anything, but I love doing what I do as well and it’s just getting the balance right which is not easy, at all.

As a model she has also appeared on campaigns for designers Marc Jacobs and Dolce and Gabanna.

She introduced her Victoria Beckham collection of dresses in 2008 which was well received by the fashion industry and is now a regular fixture on the New York Fashion Week circuit.

Beckham, whose designs are worn by actresses Gwyneth Paltrow, Anne Hathaway as well as singer Beyonce Knowles, said she wanted women to be empowered and confident in her clothes.

"A lot of thought goes into everything I design to make a women feel the best that she can feel," she said.

"Women are always going to feel a little bit insecure. There is a lot of pressure on women to look a certain way and I want to help women feel good about themselves.

Beckham’s comments on body image came ahead of a debate on body size at the festival where models Daisy Lowe and David Gandy shared their experiences of working in fashion.

Earlier this month British Vogue magazine signed a 10-point agreement with trade union Equity to ensure that models will not work more than 10 hours a day and to ensure their working conditions in a studio or on location are healthy.

This comes as part of a wider initiative by the fashion industry to encourage a healthier approach to body image.

In February, the Council of Fashion Designers of America issued guidelines at New York Fashion Week to stop the use of underage and underweight models from walking the runways.

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**Reese Witherspoon says it’s important for successful women to be confident**

LOS ANGELES, 4 May—The 37-year-old actress — who was arrested for disorderly conduct earlier this month after drunkenly asking police if they knew who she was when they stopped her husband Jim Toth for driving under the influence (DUI) — believes there is still a tendency for high-achieving females to be too modest when they should be proud of their accomplishments.

She said: "As women, we shrug and smile and say, "Oh ... me?" Because it makes it socially acceptable for us to be successful. But there is a balance being arrogant jerk and being someone who is proud of their accomplishments. We need to let successful women show off and support them. Because men don’t spend any time putting themselves down. They don’t waste their breath.

"You have to be the best version of yourself and, if that means you have to be a bit self-promoting, then it’s OK. It really is. Because who’s going to believe in you more than yourself? Other than, maybe, your mother."

The Mud actress also admitted her memory has suffered since she gave birth to son Tennessee, her first child with Jim, six months ago.

Reese — who also has daughters Ava, 13, and son Deacon, nine, from her marriage to Ryan Phillippe — added in an interview with the new issue of Red magazine: “Ever since I had the baby, I don’t remember anything. Serious, this child stole my brain.

I’m losing friendships over forgetting to get back to people. But you can’t keep up with everything. I’ve got a 13 year old, a nine year old and a baby.

“It’s like CNN ticker tape running through my mind at all times. Where is Ava? She’s OK. Good. Where is Deacon? He’s OK. Good. Where is Tennessee? Is he OK? Yes. Great. Back to Ava… It doesn’t stop.” —PTI

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**Kristen Stewart named world’s best dressed woman**

Los Angeles, 4 May—Kristen Stewart has been named the world’s best dressed woman.

The 23-year-old actress has beaten Emma Watson and the Duchess of Cambridge to the title for the second year in a row in an annual poll by Britain’s Glamour magazine. The Twilight star was praised for her “personal rock-chick style” and daring red carpet looks, despite regularly sporting scruffy off-duty clothes.

Kristen has joked in the past: “I go outside, and I’m wearing a funky T-shirt and my hair is dirty, and people say, ‘What’s wrong with her? She needs to invest in a hairbrush.’”

Harry Potter actress Emma, 23, held on to second place once again. The starlet has made a name for herself in recent years by ditching her schoolgirl persona and embracing a pixie crop and adventurous evening dresses. It comes as no surprise the Duchess of Cambridge rounded out the top three, gaining one place after the actress shared their experiences of working in fashion.

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"You have to be the best version of yourself," says Reese.
Bayern leave four top players out of Dortmund clash

Munich, 4 May—Bayern Munich have left Franck Ribery, Arjen Robben, Philipp Lahm and Bastian Schweinsteiger out of their squad for Saturday’s Bundesliga match at Borussia Dortmund, a dress rehearsal for this month’s Champions League final.

Coach Jupp Heynckes, expected to make other changes for the awkwardly-timed match, said the quartet have minor injuries following Tuesday’s 3-0 win at Barcelona in their Champions League semi-final second leg.

Bayern have wrapped up the Bundesliga and second-placed Dortmund are Bayern Munich’s players celebrate after their Champions League semi-final second leg soccer match against Barcelona at Camp Nou stadium in Barcelona on 1 May, 2013.—Reuters

Bayern leave four top players out of Dortmund clash

Arsenal’s future is looking bright says Wenger

London, 4 May—Arsenal are “in a very strong position for the future”, manager Arsene Wenger said on Friday as an eighth season without a trophy reaches a nervy conclusion.

Wenger also played down any talk of him leaving the Gunners before his current contract ends next year and said he felt as committed to Arsenal as he has done since arriving in the red half of North London in 1996.

Arsenal are in a fight with their arch-rivals Tottenham Hotspur and Chelsea for the two remaining Champions League places for next season as they seek to compete in the elite European competition for a 16th successive season.

They are currently fourth in the Premier League, two points above Tottenham and one behind Chelsea, and could consolidate their position on Saturday when they make the short trip across London to already-relegated Queens Park Rangers.

Spurs are at home to Southampton on Saturday while Chelsea travel to newly-crowned champions Manchester United on Sunday.

Talking to reporters at the club’s London Colney training base in Hertfordshire, Wenger said: “We have gone through a period that was very sensitive, we are coming out of it now and everything is here to have a great future. “We have a good fan base, we now have a strong financial situation, we have good young players and a squad with a bright future with the quality of the young players we have. “It is just to manage it well now.”

Wenger has been under some pressure during the past two seasons with Arsenal failing to mount a realistic title challenge and falling short of adding to the three Premier League titles or four FA Cups that he won between 1996 and 2005.

Rafael Nadal hits out at Puerto verdict to not name implicated athletes

Madrid, 4 May—Clay-court king Rafael Nadal has blasted the decision by a Spanish judge not to reveal the names of the cheats implicated in the famous Operation Puerto doping case, Spanish Press reported on Tuesday.

On Tuesday, judge Julia Patricia Santamaría refused to allow the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) access to the sacks of blood that were seized in the Spanish police operation against Dr Eufemiano Fuentes, and even ordered that they be destroyed. Unless that decision is reversed, it means the world may never know the names of those people who used Fuentes’s services in order to gain an unfair advantage in their sport.

“Find it unfair that the names of the cheats are not given, whether they’re Spanish or not,” said Nadal, according to the AS and Marca newspapers.

“The image that this verdict gives our country is not the best. ‘It seems to me to be a mistake not to reveal the names of the cheats so that at least they can feel the contempt of fellow sportsmen and feel ashamed.’”—PTI

Newcastle United’s Papiss Cisse (R) challenges Everton’s Sylvain Distin during their English Premier League soccer match in Newcastle, northern England on 2 Jan, 2013.—Reuters

Newcastle United’s Papiss Cisse (R) challenges Everton’s Sylvain Distin during their English Premier League soccer match in Newcastle, northern England on 2 Jan, 2013.— Reuters

Bayern leave four top players out of Dortmund clash

Argentina eyes Anfield win to soothe derby wounds

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Bayern Munich’s players celebrate after their Champions League semi-final second leg soccer match against Barcelona at Camp Nou stadium in Barcelona on 1 May, 2013.— Reuters

Bayern leave four top players out of Dortmund clash

LONDON, 4 May—Everton’s Sylvain Distin mocked Liverpool fans on Friday for “begging for a mistake” from the defender in this weekend’s Premier League Merseyside derby.

Distin made a costly error in last season’s FA Cup semi-final between the teams, under-hitting a backpass that allowed Luis Suarez to level the scores before Andy Carroll netted the winner to send Liverpool through.

The centre back admits he endured a “tough few weeks” after that during which he questioned his future in the game.

A year on, however, he is in a bullish mood.

“My red followers been very quiet this season. I wonder why. Now they beg me for a mistake to make them feel better. I’m feeling sad for them,” Distin said on Twitter.

LONDON, 4 May—Real Madrid manager Jose Mourinho has still not made up his mind about his future and will only do so once the season has finished, he said on Friday.

“I have not taken any decision on whether I am going or not,” said the Portuguese at a press conference ahead of Real’s home clash with Valladolid on Saturday.

“If I can confirm that there are still five matches left in the league and a Cup final to play and, after those games, I will sit down with the president and (the director general) Jose Angel Sanchez and we will speak about my future.”

In addition, over many years Liverpool have been the top team here in the city, there’s no question about that,” he told reporters.

“Last year Everton finished above ourselves, but for us this year it’s really about finishing as high as we possibly can.”—Reuters

Arsenal’s future is looking bright says Wenger

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**GENERAL**

**Italian police arrest 29, investigate 57 in theft probe across airports**

Rome, 4 May — Italian police arrested 29 people, including workers of the national flag carrier Alitalia, and put 57 under investigation on Friday in a probe into luggage theft at local airports, media reports said.

According to local prosecutors, the thefts took place onboard the aircraft during the luggage loading and unloading operations in several airports of mayor cities throughout the country including Rome, Milan, Bologna and Naples.

Audiovisual tappings were reportedly carried out, for the first time in Italy, onboard the aircraft through which it was possible to identify those responsible for more than 100 thefts, attempted thefts over more than a year.

**Mickelson grabs Quail Hollow lead at halfway mark**

New York, 4 May — Phil Mickelson, spotless with his putter, surged into a two-shot lead at Friday’s halfway mark of the Wells Fargo Championship by firing a five-under-par 67 at Quail Hollow in Charlotte, North Carolina. The big lefthander made everything from inside 10 feet on the soft greens, making him 31-for-31 from those distances during the first 36 holes for a nine-under total of 135.

Tied for second on 137 were fellow Americans Nick Watney (70) and George McNeil (68), and Australian Scott Gardiner (67), who made four birdies in a row from the sixth in bouncing back after missing his last eight cuts on the PGA Tour.

Another stroke away was a group that included world number two Rory McIlroy (71) of Northern Ireland, Englishman Lee Westwood, who shot a 68 despite feeling under the weather with a chest infection, and Australian Rod Pampling (69), the 10th and last alternate to join the field.

Mickelson, who considers the course one of his favorites and has finished 12th or better seven times in nine appearances, took advantage of greens softened by rain and cool temperatures, including two putting surfaces resodded just seven days ago.

“They’re slower so we can be more aggressive, and I’ve made a concerted effort to give myself uphill putts which allows me to take a lot of the break out and be aggressive,” Mickelson said after the round.

“On this course they have a lot of holes that are repelling, where if you miss it just a little bit it will kick the ball away. When the greens are firm and fast you have to respect that and play about 20 or 30 feet away. But with the greens softer we’re able to fly it at the hole and stop it.” — Reuters

**At least 18 killed, 36 wounded in attacks in Iraq**

Baghdad, 4 May — At least 18 people were killed and 36 others injured in attacks on Friday in Iraq, including a car bombing near a mosque in the capital of Baghdad, Interior Ministry and police sources said.

The car bomb exploded near the Sunni mosque in northern Baghdad as worshippers were leaving Friday Prayers. At least five of them were killed and 30 others wounded, an Interior Ministry source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

The blast also damaged several cars nearby, he added. Meanwhile, a total of nine policemen were killed and six others wounded in clashes between armed men and police in Mosul, some 400 km northwest of Baghdad, a local police source told Xinhua. The armed men had attacked several police checkpoints around the city, he said.

Moreover, four gunmen were killed when they attacked a checkpoint belonging to the Iraqi army in western Mosul, the source added. Violence is still common in Iraq despite the dramatic decrease since its peak in 2006 and 2007 when the country was engulfed in sectarian killings.

The UN Assistance Mission for Iraq said Thursday that the death toll among Iraqis from violence in April has hit its highest level since 2008, with 712 people killed in violence across the country. — Xinhua
Daw Aung San Suu Kyi back from Mongolia

Chairperson of Pyithu Hluttaw Rule of Law and Tranquility Committee Daw Aung San Suu Kyi arrived back here from Mongolia at 10.15 pm yesterday.

At the invitation of Mongolian President Tsakhiagiin Elbegdorj, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi paid a visit to Mongolia on 27 April.

She attended the 7th Ministerial Conference of the Community of Democracies (CD).

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi was presented Geremek Award at the conference.

The Voice wins most awards at 2nd national press award presentation

YANGON, 4 May—Organized by National Press Award Committee of Myanmar Journalists Association, the prize presentation ceremony for 2nd National Press Award was held at National Theatre on Myoma Kyaung Street, here, yesterday evening.

Five prizes were awarded at 1st National Press Award presentation ceremony and six prizes were awarded at 2nd National Press Award presentation ceremony.

The editorial “Differences and Change of Conflict” appeared on 12-18 March, 2012 issue of The Voice Weekly Journal the best photo award; the cartoon by Kyaw Thurein on No. 18, Volume 8 of The Voice Weekly Journal the best cartoon award; and the news broadcasting “media grip and young journalists” by MNTV the best news broadcasting award.

The chairman of CB Bank donated K 7 million, the photo “Kayah State peace-building dialogue” by Zaw Min Naing on 7 March, 2012 issue of Monitor Journal the best photo award; the cartoon by Kyaw Thurein on No. 18, Volume 8 of The Voice Weekly Journal the best cartoon award; and the news broadcasting “media grip and young journalists” by MNTV the best news broadcasting award.

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Myanmar Livestock and Fisheries Development Bank Ltd to be formed as public bank

YANGON, 4 May—A press conference on formation of Myanmar Livestock and Fisheries Development Bank Ltd as a public bank took place at the Bank in Pabedan Township, this evening.

Member of Board of Director U Kyaw Lwin explained the facts about the bank. “Plans are under way to form it as a public bank on 25 June. The bank gets profits only and has over 60 branches. Branches will be extended to 100,” said Managing Director Min Tun.

Officials replied to the queries raised by the media.

Yangon car market remains cool

Yangon car market is normal since Myanmar New Year festival.

“The car market is on average. And the car market not packed with buyers and sellers due to a new place and less buying and selling,” said Ko Kyaw Zeyar Tun from Thanlwin car sales center.

“This is because of stable dollar prices, no change in Japan car auction and low demand,” broker Ko Aye Min Tun said. Due to low demands, car markets and car sale centers have to sell their cars at lower prices.

“The sale of cars is very cool. It is very difficult to expect what the car market happens. It is expected that the demand will be high only when more taxes are reduced,” said an owner of Car Sale Center in South Okkalapa Township. Car salesprices with owner’s name are around K 9 million and without owner names, between K 8.3 million and K 8.5 million. The price is between K 8.7 million.

Car sale prices at Minyekyawsa Car Dealers Market are K 13.2 million for Honda Fit (2008 model), K 33.2 for (Crown 2003 model) and K 14 million for Toyota Belta 2008.

By Khin Yadana

Palæthwe paddy harvest demonstrates in Htantabin Township

YANGON, 4 May—With a view to benefiting farmers, the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation disseminated knowledge on 14 points good agriculture patterns in growing paddy.

One acre Palæthwe paddy plantation of farmer U Kyaw Zan Oo at field No (333), holdings No (8/ka) in Masbwe U Village-Tract in Htantabin Township of Yangon North District was harvested on 30 April. Its dry per acre yield is 204.3 baskets of paddy.

As 100 baskets of paddy were sold for K 400,000 to Pinle Koethwe Co, farmer U Kyaw Zan Oo earned K 550,000 in profits.

The cost of growing paddy on one acre farm is over K 250,000.

The ceremony was attended by officials from the departments, village administrators and farmers.

By Khin Yadana

Significant day temperatures (4-5-2013)

Chauk 41°C
Gangaw 41°C
Hinthada 41°C
Bawlakhe 41°C

By Khin Yadana

Yangon: The Union Election Commission has requested the line ministries to check whether those persons comply with provisions in Sections 4 and 6 of the Political Party Registration Law.

MNA

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